Agartala (Tripura) into Central Universities and to establish a Central University in Sikkim.

Urdu medium teachers

522. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the shortage of trained teachers who can teach through Urdu medium;

(b) whether Government plan to open teachers' training institutes for the Urdu medium teachers;

(c) if not, reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to give training to the teachers for the Urdu medium schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Recruitment of teachers, including those who can teach through Urdu medium is the responsibility of the State Government.

(b) to (d) The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) which is an Apex Body for Teachers Education recognises teacher education courses in Urdu medium run by State Government as well as Non-Government Organisations.

Further, under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan all teachers including Urdu medium school teachers are provided annual in-service teachers training.

National centre to study natural calamities and disasters

523. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether various universities have sought financial assistance to set up national centre to study natural calamities and disaster;

(b) if so, the details of these universities; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a)